OBITUARY

José Valentín Herrera González (1913–1992)

Don José Herrera G., or Pepe, was born in Mejillones, Antofagasta Province, Chile, on 9 October 1913. His father, Juan Herrera Marín, and his mother, Isabel Gonzalez Del Rey, were born in Spain. He had three brothers, still living in Chile, and a sister who died in 1941.

Pepe married Doña Ernesta Dick Gandolfo from Puerto Natales in 1941. Ernesta had a pet mountain lion, beautiful portraits of which hang in several rooms of the Herrera home in Santiago, and the Herrera household always included one or more cats. Their first daughter, Nievas, was born in August 1942, daughter Carol in August of 1946, and daughter Verónica in December 1947. Nievas now lives in California. Carol and Verónica remain in Santiago. Pepe had 6 grandchildren, 2 girls and 4 boys, when he died after a short illness at his home in Santiago on 29 January 1992, at the age of 78. The world has lost a fine Lepidopterist; Chile has lost a fine educator; and many of us have lost a fine friend.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Pepe attended high school at the Colegio San Luis in Antofagasta city, and in 1931 entered the Instituto Pedagógico of the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, graduating with honors in 1934 as Profesor de Estado en Biología y Química. He then enrolled in the Instituto de Educación Fisíca at the University and received a Professor of Physical Education degree in 1936. He was offered a post in Punta Arenas where they needed a teacher in science and physical education at the boy's high school, Luis Alberto Barrera. He accepted for six months, but stayed for ten years.

When he returned in 1946 to Santiago from Punta Arenas, Don José joined the faculty of the University of Chile as Professor of Zoology in the Institute of Pedagogy in 1946, and Profesor de Entomología in 1956. He then joined the Facultad de Filosofía Y Educación as chief of the Departamento de Biología from 1956 to 1960, and as Director del Centro de Estudias Entomológicos in 1960. He was elected Profesor Extraordinario de Entomología by the faculty of Philosophy and Education of the University of Chile in 1964.

In 1981 he joined La Academía Superiór de Ciencias Pedagógicas de Santiago as Professor in the Basic Sciences Department, becoming Emeritus Professor in 1982. He was a member of the board of directors of the Academy from 1981 to 1984. Pepe accepted the post of Director of the Entomological Center in 1984, then Director of the Entomological Institute (which he founded) in 1985.

In 1985 Don José was awarded the National Prize for Education, Chile's highest recognition in education. This award carries with it, aside from the considerable academic honors, a substantial life-time stipend for him and later, for his surviving widow. This award made from page news from Antofagasta to Punta Arenas and the magazine Revista de Educatión featured him on the cover and in two articles of the October 1985 issue, as the nation remembered the fifty years of teaching by Profesor José Herrera G.

Pepe retired several times but was talked into taking up another academic post. Thus, he was asked to serve as Dean of Basic Sciences at the Universidad Metropolitana de Ciences de la Educatión, which he accepted in April of 1986 and held until his death.

The former journal Publicaciones del Centro de Estudios Entomológicos, which ran for 12 volumes until 1982, was succeeded and continued in 1986 as the new Acta Entomológica Chilena, Volume 13. As the Director of the Center for Entomological Studies and then as Director of the Entomological Institute, Don José was a major force in the creation of this new journal and he wrote its preface.

Pepe joined La Sociedád Chilena de Entomología in 1934 and was elected Vice-President in 1981. He had been a member of The Lepidopterists' Society since 1949 and served on the Executive Council from 1953 to 1955, and as Vice-President in 1966–1967. He joined the Sociedád de Biología de Chile in 1978, the Lepidoptera Research Foundation



Prof. José Herrera G.

in 1984, and was a member of the Advisory Council of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera since its inception in 1989.

LEPIDOPTEROLOGICAL INTERESTS

Pepe was an educator, and his bibliography reflects this somewhat. In this capacity he travelled widely, allowing him to collect insects and visit many museums and entomological colleagues in Europe and North and South America. In 1951, from June through September, Pepe visited the United States and worked at the U.S. National Museum. In 1960 he returned to the United States at Atlanta, Georgia, and also visited Sao Paulo, Brasil. From November 1961 to March 1962 he visited Italy, France, Switzerland, and Spain and spent March and April of that year at the British Museum (Natural History). Next, on education business in 1964, he went to Puerto Rico and the United States again, visiting several states including California. He studied butterflies of the high Andes in Colombia, Ecuadór and Perú, collecting and visiting museums during July and August of 1969. He returned to California in 1979 and in 1982 when he worked at the University of California at Davis and at the Oakland Museum. He traveled to Antarctica in 1980, to Florida and the Allyn Museum in September and October of 1984, then returned to California in 1988.

Don José also traveled extensively in Chile collecting insects, often with a busload of his students. He very much enjoyed having students about him. Pepe was very athletic in his youth, and held for a time the national championship in the long jump; he prized an action photograph of him in competition which he had hanging in his office. This interest in his fitness took him, whenever possible, to some of the numerous hot springs and bath resorts, or termas, that are scattered along the Andes and foothills of at least the northern two thirds of Chile. Many of his favorite collecting localities reflect his visits

to such hot springs "for his health."

He was especially interested in Chilean butterflies and had hoped to complete a book on the Butterflies of Chile. This led to his collaboration with several northern Lepidopterists with whom he became acquainted over the years in connection with Chilean Nymphalidae, Satyridae, Pieridae, Lycaenidae and Hesperiidae, e.g. T. G. Howarth, W. D. Field, A. M. Shapiro, L. D. Miller, K. Johnson, and me. Pepe had accumulated a large and valuable collection of Chilean Lepidoptera which was housed at the University. This collection was destroyed by deliberate burning during the campus riots by the Socialistas in 1973. Very little material survived the fire. He never got over the loss and never felt comfortable again about keeping valuable specimens at the University. He had gathered a small collection since then which he kept at his home. He was much concerned about conserving native species. He was interested in establishing a Butterfly House of native species, and wished to reintroduce to Cerro San Cristobal in Santiago larval food plants, nectar sources and native butterflies of Chile. He was working with several people in authority toward that goal.

There can be little doubt that Pepe was the dean of Lepidoptera in Chile; he knew the fauna extremely well and produced a number of students of Lepidoptera. His eye for discriminating species was acute as was his sense of similarities. Pepe was a strong believer in the reliability of genitalic characters in taxonomy and this led to spirited discussions. Art Shapiro tells of one such discussion where he ultimately challenged Pepe to a test; Shapiro would send him ten separated pierid abdomens with code numbers only and Pepe would report the identifications. Shapiro had included a couple of natural hybrids from Patagonia. He reports that Pepe got nine and a half correct. (He called a hybrid one of its presumptive parents.) Art has done this test with others and states that

no one has ever come close to Pepe's record.

Pepe was a very good natured man who would unexpectedly burst into song. He had a refreshing sense of humor. He never felt comfortable with English and was wonderfully amused by his misadventures with the language. He delighted in the retelling of these misunderstandings and their consequences, told with much drama and expressive gesture. He was a proud man; proud of his family, his home and garden. He was proud too, of his accomplishments and the people he had met, and of his country. He loved fine wine and kept an extensive cellar of special vintages, a bottle of which was likely to appear at

the dinner table. He was fun to be around and had an infectious personality that made him many friends wherever he traveled. He will be remembered fondly and much missed by all those he touched.

My thanks for reminiscences or helpful suggestions to Art Shapiro, Lee Miller, and Jackie Miller. To Pepe's wife Ernesta, and his daughter Nievas Andredesz, I am particularly grateful for generous help. I extend to them and their family my deepest sympathy.

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PUBLICATIONS OF JOSE HERRERA G.

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1953

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1954

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- 8. Curso de Zoología (Artrópodos, Vermes y Moluscos). 2 vols. Editorial Universitaria, Santiago.
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1955

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1957

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1959

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- 21. El concepto de especie. Rev. Universitar. Univ. Catól. Chile: 44 & 45:157–163. Santiago.

1961

22. Plan de integración educaciónal de Arica. Ministerio de Educación Pública. 50 pp., 8 pls.

1963

23. Curso teórico-práctico de entomología, 2nd ed. Editorial Universitaria, Santiago.

1964

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